



## **Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development Meeting Minutes**

Date: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

Time: 7:00 pm

Conducted by Remote Participation (due to Covid19 pandemic)

Committee members in attendance: Bob Bowes, Chris D'Angelo, Thomas Davison (Treasurer), Michelle Deakin, John Hurd, Bill Lyons, Angela Olszewski (Chair), Steve Poltorzycki, Bob Tosi Jr. (Acting Secretary)

Guests at meeting: Ali Carter, Economic Development Coordinator Dept Planning & Community Development

Committee members not in attendance: Jim Byrnes, Bob Radochia

**1. Call to Order**

Angela called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.

**2. Acceptance of Minutes**

John H made a motion, seconded by Bob B., to accept the minutes of the October meeting. The motion passed by roll call vote. 8-0 with Thomas D abstaining

**3. Treasurer's Report/Reimbursements**

Tom D, Treasurer reported balances and encumbrances as follows:

\$9,547 in Operating budget with \$5,222 unencumbered

\$3,554 allocated for Arlington Chamber of Commerce Magazine.

\$100 allocated for gift certificates to reimburse Angela O.

**4. Committee Organization**

Currently 11 members appointed to 13 members committee.

Ali C proposed committee membership be as follows:

3 from business community with one from each business district

1 from Industrial business district

1 from ACAC

1 from Battle Road Scenic By-way committee

1 Redevelopment Board designee

1 Chamber of Commerce designee

3 Arlington residents especially with skills and knowledge helpful to committee

Many current members fit these roles and will look into expanding cmte to as much as 15 to include all current members

New structure could provide outreach opportunities as Business Task Force members were not all aware of ATED.

Ali C to send committee full committee composition as proposed list does not include Select Board appointee.

ATED to review final proposal at next meeting and vote on new membership structure

Ali C relayed she will be on maternity leave for twelve weeks and expected to be back May 2 2022  
Jenny Raitt (Director DPCD) or Marissa Lau senior planner to fill in for her from Arlington DPCD

5. Vision/Goal Setting

Angela O reported she inquired with Joan Robbio to facilitate but she is not available. Vision2020 did strategic planning and will inquire with whom and at what cost

6. Clean Streets Letter Follow-up

John H reported \$40K from parking revenue towards Russell Commons cleanup & Broadway Plaza. Outside vendor likely will be used. Scope of work TBD.

Angela O noted no point of contact serving as Ombudsman at DPW for related issues.

A previously proposed Beatification Cmte including Holiday lighting by then Select Board member Joe Curro was not followed up on.

John H to work with Town Manager on warrant article to form committee and for seed money

Bob T noted trash problem along Mass Ave both in and outside business districts.

7. ATED Budget request to Finance Committee

Annual request \$4,275 \$2,500 for Visitor Center operations & \$1,775 for expenses

Motion made b Tom D and seconded by Steve P for annual request

Motion carried unanimously with roll call vote 9-0

8. Request for support of ACAD Budget Request to Arlington Finance Committee

Steve P reported last FY budget was reduced to 30K due to COVID pandemic and ACAC did more and not less during pandemic. Requesting full \$35K budget as before pandemic.

Motion for ATED to do letter of support to Finance Cmte for their full budget request of \$35K was made by Bob B and seconded by John H

Motion carried on a roll call vote 7-0 with Steve P and Tom D abstaining

Angela O later in meeting agreed to do letter

9. Patriots Day 2022 Planning

Bob B. reported no Parade is being planned for 2022. Laura Munsey who was lead in 2021 is now working in Treasurer's office. Parade mostly funded by donations and too late to get started at this time. Lexington and Concord are reportedly having parades.

Menotomy Minute Men despite reduced company members are willing to do re-enactment but not sure if able to do full re-enactment

Angela O reported Lancers are riding after being cancelled for last four years, two years due to weather and two years due to pandemic.

Publicity and event for Lancers needed in March. Angela O with Bob B, John H and Michelle D to work on this

Discussion shifted to Arlington Town Day.

John H to convene responsible parties to ensure Town Day happens this year.

10. Foot of the Rocks improvements

Angela O reported Alan Tosti pursued funding for this thru CPA funds and working cmte includes: A. Tosti, Jim Feeney, Paul Fennelly, Clarissa Rowe and member from Arlington Heights

Need liaison from ATED. Bob T offered to do

11. Battle Road Scenic Byway

Ali C relayed Route2A project has been a distraction but planning a celebration event for the spring 2022 of All American Road designation to be held at Minute Man National Park. Ali C to request Clarissa R or Paul Fennelly to keep ATED informed.

12. Local Business Support

Bob T reported very well attended Holiday Stroll event at Arlington Heights. Largest crowd ever for annual ACMI tree lighting. Police Car and Fire Engine at MBTA lot was very popular with young families.

Arlington Ctr is undergoing water main project at Broadway Plaza.

Ali C reported on ARPA Grants. Small business/non profits submission closed on 1/10/22. Received around 200 applications with 1.2 million in requests.

Currently down to 90 eligible/complete applications with 750K allocated for this.

Arlington Board of Health to meet this same night to review mandates around pandemic.

13. Support for Arts & Culture

Steve P reported ARPA grants could benefit artists in Arlington.

Climate futures project with high school students is winding down.

Artists involved with banners for black history month. For first time all three business districts will have banners. Due to lengthy meeting kept report short.

14. Visitor Center /Public Restrooms

Two vendors rented visitor center for Holiday season. One did well and other just okay. Vendors would do again as part of a combined event or weekend event but not during week.

Ali C noted three chairs and rolling book stand are in her office from Visitor Ctr Low-cost heat improvements could be done to Visitor enter for holiday market in mid-December 2022.

Coordination of events with underground water sprinkler noted. Sprinkler may have caused premature rotting of ramp.

15. 2025 Celebration

John H reported the Select Board is forming a committee that will have ATED representative and will report on at next ATED meeting.

16. Election of Officers

Angela O reported that ATED charter calls for Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer Angela O asked for nominations for Chair. Bob B nominated Angela O and Tom D seconded

There being no further nominations for Chair Angela O accepted role for now. Angela O asked for nominations for Vice Chair. Chris D noted that he would be willing to serve. Vote was taken 8-0 in favor of Chris with Chris abstaining. No nominations were made for Secretary Tom D said he was willing to continue to serve as Treasurer after no one expressed an interest in serving as Treasurer.

17. Future Meeting Dates

The next ATED meeting is as usual the fourth Wednesday of month. February 23, 2022.

18. Old Business

None

19. New Business

Angela O noted the death of Bill Radochia, brother of committee member Bob Radochia. Angela O also noted the death of Arlington resident Brian Rehrig a long- time active volunteer.

20. Adjournment

Steve P. made a motion, seconded by Michelle D, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44PM. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote 9-0

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by  
Robert (Bob) Tosi Jr.